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NORTHEASTERN FARMERS PLAN FOR

A BETTER PEACE

These resolutions, formulated by a special committee headed by Chas. A. Collins, New Jersey farmer, were unanimously adopted by 300 farmer delegates from nine States at the regional conference of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, War Food Administration. New York City, March 29, 1944.

If we are to have a just and lasting peace --
If the lessons we have learned out of war,
If the sacrifices made are to mean anything
to future generations --
If "our dead shall not have died in vain" --

We must certainly set about to build an internal economy that will give to all groups

A fair share of the national income,
A sense of security in their work, and
The peace of mind so sorely needed by
many millions of our people.

The United States will emerge from the war with great power... With great power goes great responsibility. It is absolutely essential that our country assume its responsibility and take its rightful place in helping to build a better world in which, furthermore, wars will be outlawed.

MAY 9 1944

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Agricultural Adjustment Agency
Washington, D. C.

Primary goals are an adequate diet for everyone; and an economic system that will permit every able bodied person to earn enough to buy an adequate diet, if he makes the effort. The food for an adequate diet in this country will require the production from all our crop-land with an increase in yield per acre of 20 percent.

Farmers should produce all the consumers will buy, plus a small surplus to take care of emergencies. Parity prices and income for farmers, supported by loans or purchases to take care of excessive production, will be necessary. Adjustments of agricultural production and care of surpluses outside of normal channels of distribution are necessary.

Economic stabilization will call for avoidance of extremes of inflation and deflation. Full employment in both industry and agriculture at a fairly high wage level is essential.

The present economic stabilization program should be continued, at least through the period of postwar readjustment. The rise in wholesale prices and the cost of living during this war has been held to one-half the increase which occurred in World War I. Without the program, a greater increase undoubtedly would have occurred during this war.

Although prices of agricultural products as a group have been permitted to rise more than prices of all commodities, there are still individual agricultural commodities that are not at parity levels.



The demand for food in Europe and Asia will increase as the war continues. As soon as the war is over, every effort will be made by the war-torn countries to get back on their feet insofar as food and fiber production for home use is concerned. The demand for agricultural products which we are now shipping abroad will decline a year or two after the war's end.

Thereafter we shall be able to produce some farm commodities for export. Payments will have to be made in goods and services, since we have most of the world's monetary gold.

If the recommendations of the United Nations Food Conference are carried out, there will be a big expansion in world food production and distribution. This will call for cooperative action of farmers of all countries working through an international organization similar to our A.A.A. to adjust production and distribution of food and fiber.

In the United States full production and full employment of the war years have provided good markets for agricultural products. New and expanded industrial employment opportunities will be needed to absorb the millions from the armed forces and the millions of industrial workers who will be demobilized at the end of the war. Employment for these is essential for the maintenance of good markets for agricultural products. Improved living and working conditions are mutual problems for all farm and nonfarm people.

Cooperation of agriculture, management, labor and government on all problems for the postwar period is absolutely essential to give us full production, full employment and a balanced economy. Agreement on objectives and methods should come from cooperative discussion by agriculture, labor and industry, building a better understanding of mutual interdependence and the need for working together. Agriculture can and should take the lead, without delay, in developing this mutual understanding.

Farm organizations and groups should bring into their meetings representatives of labor, industry and banking.

Action to aid in attaining the agreed upon objectives should be arrived at by joint, cooperative planning of agriculture, labor and industry--cooperative planning in an atmosphere where group interests are secondary to the welfare of all. One method might be to establish an Economic Supreme Court, whose function would be to aid in the attainment of the balanced internal economy so essential to our economic wellbeing.

Agriculture can take the lead by demonstrating that it is willing to avoid exploitation of any opportunity to get more than its fair share of the national income. This means forgetting and forgiving all previous periods of less, as well as foregoing future opportunities of obtaining more than a fair share.

SHARE AND PLAY FAIR
needs to be more than a motto,
as does

A RICH SOIL AND A HEALTHY AGRICULTURE
FOR A STRONG NATION